

The bird is by no means rare and both varieties or species, as the case may be, breed in the Himalayas from 6 to 9,000 feet altitude and almost invariably on a deodar tree, so if any sportsmen coming across a pair would take note of the colouration of both parent birds and the youngster, if any, and report their experience in the Journal, we should soon be able to judge whether we have been dealing with 2 phases of the same species or whether each constitutes a species in itself.

Buteo ferox (The Long-legged Buzzard) is another species that might be watched, as I have noticed, that only the light variety is a visitor to the plains during the winter and very common everywhere, but I never remember seeing the dark form actually on the plains, though I have occasionally met it along the lower hills, yet in the spring and autumn both are very common at about 5,000 feet. I have never found their nest however, though I have seen and shot young birds in both light and dark plumages.

C. H. DONALD, F.Z.S.

BUSHAHII STATE,
SIMLA DISTRICT, 20th April 1908.

No. XXIII.—ABNORMAL TAIL IN A LIZARD *HEMIDACTYLUS*
GLEADOVII.

I send a specimen of the lizard *Hemidactylus gleadovii* with a trifold tail.—



The occurrence of a bifid tail in this species and bifid and trifold tails in other lizards has been observed on in Vol. ix, p. 30 and Vol. xi, p. 680 of our Journal. The specimen sent was caught on the wall of the dāk bungalow here. It appeared to be inconvenienced by its complicated tail and moved sluggishly and was easily caught. As the tail has been somewhat bent by packing I may add that in life it had the appearance of a normal straight tail with two supplementary tails attached on the left hand side of the lizards main tail.

From an examination of the scaling, however, it would

appear that the main axis of the original tail has been bent to the left from the second projection, and the first projection and the portion which now

continues (the main axis behind the second forking) are regenerated portions. There is also a curious twist in the scaling at the second fork.

G. A. D. STUART, I.C.S.

CAMP, CHINGLEPUT DIST., MADRAS,
26th January 1908.

No. XXIV.—NOTES ON THE COMMON INDIAN CROCODILE
(*CROCODILUS PALUSTRIS*).

In the hope that the subject may be of some interest to members of your Society, I beg leave to ask for the favour of any information you can give me regarding a curious condition of the skins of crocodiles, which has recently come under my notice.

Several crocodiles shot in the Jumna near Delli lately, by myself and some of my friends, have had marks on their bellies which look like scratches, or the cicatrices of sores; and one had pinkish spots. These marks were only on the belly and were not found on "Gharial" (*Gavialis gangeticus*), but only on the crocodiles proper (*C. palustris*), which led me to believe that they were the results of slight wounds received in climbing up steep banks into brushwood, a habit I have only observed among crocodiles,—the "Gharial" confining themselves to mud-spits. But Messrs. Shewan & Co. of Cawnpore, to whom I send the skins for tanning, state that they are sores, and that they believe they are due to some epidemic disease which has broken out among the "muggars". They further state that they are receiving skins in the same condition from several different parts of India, and that in 20 years' experience of handling these skins, they have never seen anything like it before.

I should be greatly obliged if you could throw some light on the subject, as it seems to be beyond the knowledge of anyone, Native or European, that I have been able to come across.

P. E. BURN.

DELHI, 24th February 1908.

No. XXV.—EXTENSION OF THE HABITAT OF THE SNAKE
ZAMENIS FLORULENTUS.

When Mr. Boulenger's Catalogue, Volume I, appeared in 1893, *Zamenis florulentus* had only been recorded from Egypt, where it appears to be a common snake, as no less than 19 specimens were then preserved in the British Museum.

A short time ago I received a specimen, which I identify as this snake, from Sir A. H. McMahon obtained in Quetta, so that we must now include it among our British Indian Ophifauna.

It accords well with the description given in the Catalogue as regards lepidosis, and colouring.

The *præoculars* are two, the upper touching the frontal; beneath the lower a subocular is wedged between the 4th and 5th supralabials. The supralabials are 9, and the 5th and 6th touch the eye. There are three anterior temporals